

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 1924 - HB 1846**

March 12, 2014

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Enacts the “Tennessee Community Schools Act” which authorizes local education agencies (LEAs) to create community consortiums in order to establish a community school. Community schools that are created by LEAs shall be centers of their communities and shall be open to everyone every day, including evenings, weekends, and summertime. Requires the State Board of Education to promulgate rules and regulations for the creation of community schools. Authorizes the Department of Education (DOE) to seek funding from private donors or through grants for community schools. Requires DOE to help LEAs write grants for funding of community schools by providing technical assistance. When possible, DOE shall provide funds to LEAs for the employment of grant writers. Requires DOE to make community school grants available to LEAs who wish to form community schools. Sets forth the process by which grants shall be awarded and the requirements for grant eligibility. Requires the Comptroller’s Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) to study and make a report on the formation and operation of community schools to the Education Committees of the General Assembly by November 1, 2018.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$100,000**

**Increase Local Revenue - \$95,000**

**Increase Local Expenditures – Not Significant/Permissive**

**Assumptions:**

- New school facilities will not be built in order to establish community schools; any community schools created will be done so utilizing existing facilities.
- This fiscal note assumes that state appropriations will be made to establish a community schools grant program.
- The amount of any appropriation that will be made to establish a community schools grant program is unknown; however it is estimated that a minimum of \$100,000 would be appropriated annually by the state beginning in FY14-15.
- According to DOE, five percent of the total appropriation made by the General Assembly in any fiscal year would be used by the DOE for administration costs. If the

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annual appropriation is \$100,000, DOE will keep \$5,000 for administration and \$95,000 would be available for grants.

- The amount of each grant is unknown and is dependent upon multiple unknown factors.
- DOE and the SBE will support and encourage the creation of community schools within the normal course of business without an increase in personnel or reduced reversions.
- Any increase in state expenditures to apply for private or federal grants to help fund community schools is estimated to be not significant.
- Any increase in local expenditures to form community schools would be permissive. It is assumed that local governments will not form community schools unless grant funding is sufficient for doing so, or if local government expenditures will increase significantly as a result.
- Any increase in state expenditures for OREA to perform the required study is estimated to be not significant.

### **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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